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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,040	07/12/2001	Raman Chandrasekar	1018.134US1	6976

41505 7590 11/29/2004

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EXAMINER

AL HASHEMI, SANA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/682,040

Applicant(s)

CHANDRASEKAR ET AL.

Examiner

Sana Al-Hashemi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 28-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-27 and 31-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 28-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/5/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is in response to the amendment filed on June 14, 2004 in which Claims 1-17, and 28-30 are presented for examination, and claims 18-27, 31-33 are withdrawn from consideration.
2. Claim Status: 1- 17, and 28-30, are rejected.
3. Applicant's arguments filed June 14, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1-17 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowman et al (US Patent No. 6,006,225).

Regarding Claims 1, 9, and 28, Bowman discloses a method for refining a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user (see column 4, lines 61-63, Bowman);

mapping the user query to one or more search concepts each having a relative popularity proportional to a total number of previous queries which have been mapped to the concept(see Fig. 5A, 146, column 10, lines 42-49, Bowman); and

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displaying a list of the search concepts associated with the query (see column 7, lines 24-33, Bowman).

Regarding Claims 2, and 10, Bowman discloses a method further comprising initiating, upon the user's request, a preferred query associated with at least one of the one or more search concepts to provide improved search results (see column 9, lines 41-50, Bowman).

Regarding Claims 3, and 12, Bowman discloses a method wherein the one or more search concepts are popular search concepts and wherein their relative popularity can be used to order the displayed list (see column 9, lines 56-63, Bowman).

Regarding Claims 4, and 13, Bowman discloses a method further comprising, for the one or more search concepts, adding a number of popularity points to the concept for each of a plurality of different query phrases that matches one of a plurality of key phrases associated with the concept and that is unique to the concept, wherein the number of popularity points is proportional to a number of times the query phrase appears in a query log (see column 10, lines 8-15, Bowman).

Regarding Claims 5, and 14, Bowman discloses a method wherein initiating the preferred search query comprises selecting a key phrase uniquely associated with the concept and having a greatest popularity for the concept within the query log as indicated by popularity points added to the matching concept as a result of the key phrase matching a query phrase within the query log (see column 10, lines 24-33, Bowman).

Regarding Claims 6, and 15, Bowman discloses a method further comprising apportioning a number of popularity points among two or more of the search concepts when a plurality of different query phrases match one of a plurality of key phrases associated with the

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two or more search concepts, wherein the number of popularity points is proportional to the number of times the query phrase appears in the query log (see column 10, lines 42-49, Bowman).

Regarding Claims 7, and 16, Bowman discloses a method further comprising determining a popularity measure of the search concept as a function of the popularity points of the search concept and the popularity points of a most popular one of the one or more search concepts (see column 10, lines 50-60, Bowman).

Regarding Claims 8, and 17, Bowman discloses a method wherein the method is performed by execution of instructions stored on a computer-readable medium (see Fig. 2, 230, Bowman).

Regarding Claim 11, Bowman discloses a method wherein the set of improved search results comprises one or more sub-sets of the set of improved search results, each sub-set associated with one of the search concepts and having a number of search results proportional to the relative popularity of the search concepts (see Fig. 2, 240, and 250, Bowman).

Regarding Claim 29, the combination of Woods and Curtis discloses a system wherein the server is a search engine and the client is a web browser (see Fig. 2, 200, Bowman).

Regarding Claim 30, Woods discloses a system wherein the server and the client are applications (see Fig. 1, 130, Bowman).

***Response to Amendment***

6. Applicant argues that the Bowman does not teach or suggest features of the claimed invention, namely, as recited in newly amended independent claims 1, 9, and 28, which requires one or more concepts, “each having a relative popularity proportional to a total number of previous queries which have been mapped to the concept.”

7. Examiner disagrees. Referring to Fig. 5A, 146 and column 10, lines 42-49, Bowman does teach the step of for each key term stored in the table there is a related list is coupled with a prefix and a value representing the correlation score, each time the key term (which corresponds to the applicant use the term concept where as both art used to further narrow searching element) and the related term are used together in a query.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

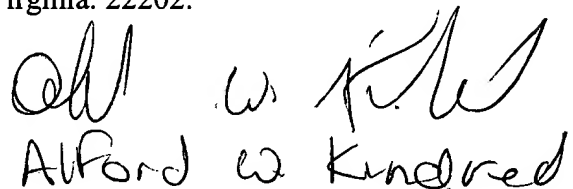
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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*Points of Contact*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to: Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4013.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (571) 272-4023. Any response to this office action should be mailed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. Or telefax at phone number (703) 872-9306. For formal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT". Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Receptionist, Arlington, Virginia. 22202.

  
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Sana Al-Hashemi  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100  
November 22, 2004